

occur in Southern India in winter, so the bird we saw had probably overshot its usual winter habitat.

STORTH, MANOR WAY,
ALDWICK BAY,
BOGNOR REGIS,
March 20, 1966.

(MRS.) E. M. WYNELL-MAYOW

[Mrs. Wynell-Mayow's father Major W.W.A. Phillips first recorded the occurrence of the Indian Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo fluvicola* Blyth) in Ceylon (1948, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 47: 740). That stranger, like the stranger in the present case, was in a party of *H. rustica* and Major Phillips suggested that it might have straggled into Ceylon with them at the time of their annual migration. *H. smithii* is not common in S. India. Sálim Ali has seen it several times in Mysore, but there is no record from Travancore and Cochin. We know of no evidence to indicate that it is a winter migrant to S. India; this species is accepted as a resident form, except perhaps for small local migrations.—EDS.]

10. BEHAVIOUR MIMICRY BY THE LARGE RACKET-TAILED DRONGO [*DICRURUS PARADISEUS* (LINNAEUS)]

The tongue of land on which the Tourist Lodges are situated at the Periyar Lake Wild Life Sanctuary is an ideal place for birdwatching. Among the many species of birds that can be seen in this area, one of the most vocal is the Large Racket-tailed Drongo [*Dicrurus paradiseus* (Linnaeus)] whose exasperating habit of mimicking the calls of other birds limits one's bird list to sight records only.

While on a visit to the Sanctuary in May this year, I was intrigued by the large repertoire of calls of this drongo and, after being twice 'taken in' by its mimicry of the Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa indica*), made a habit of investigating each call from unseen sources. On one such occasion, while following a mixed hunting party of birds, I heard the agitated squeaking calls of a Jungle Babbler (*Turdoides striatus*) and was surprised to see that the calls were being made by a drongo perched on a low branch. While calling the drongo had the feathers of its body fluffed out, its wings drooping, and its tail depressed, and was pivoting from side to side on its perch—an exact mimicry of the behaviour of the Jungle Babbler while thus calling!

There were no babblers in the vicinity.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
HORNBILL HOUSE,
BOMBAY 1-BR,
August 17, 1966.

J. C. DANIEL
Curator